

the Province ; and making the Metropolis of the country, the sea port of the richest and most remote districts. This certainly is an important, a splendid, a patriotic undertaking. In a few words we will endeavour to point out more plainly the principal characteristics of this artificial river, or canal. Nova Scotia, as we before observed, is a peninsula ; it is about three hundred miles long and of very unequal width ; its long narrow shape prevents any part of it from being more than thirty miles from the sea. It is washed on its south and east shores by the waters of the Atlantic, on its north by the waters of the gulph of St. Lawrence, and on its west by the waters of the Bay of Fundy. About midway on its southern shore Halifax is situated, and at the other side of the peninsula, about fifty miles distant, lie the waters of the Bay of Fundy. The most fertile districts of Nova Scotia border on the shores of this Bay, and a great part of the very productive county of Cumberland, is divided by the basin of Minas—which is a branch of the Bay—from the western shore of the Province. Coasting vessels, which navigate those waters, and which could receive abundant valuable freights from the surrounding districts, are debarred from their natural market ; New Brunswick, or the shores of the United States, are of more easy access to them than the opposite shore of their own Province. To reach Halifax they would have to navigate the turbulent waters of the Bay of Fundy to their whole extent ; they would have to coast along the rugged South-west shore ; and then, sailing to the eastward, traverse the southern shore for more than half its entire length. This dangerous and tedious route would occasion a voyage of about three hundred and fifty miles, to reach a port, from which, the voyager at his starting was only distant, fifty or sixty miles. To remedy this, and to make Halifax the mart, the sea port, and the fitting out harbour, for the trader and the fisher of the western shores and districts, is surely a thing greatly to be desired for the interests of both sides of the Province ; for the common strength, and compactness of the country : and to do this, the Canal was projected. At the extremity of the basin of Minas, which is the extremity of the waters of the Bay of Fundy, the River Shubenacadie runs upwards of twenty miles in the direction of Halifax ; pursuing nearly the same direction, there are a series of lakes, the last, or Dartmouth lake, com-